

Knowing of your interest in catastrophic wildfire issues I thought you may be interested in the following letter I recently sent to others in Congress concerning forest fires in our area. In particular, the [letter](#) includes an article from the San Francisco Chronicle about the recent Angora Fire in South Lake Tahoe, which destroyed more than 250 homes and is ranked as one of the state's worst fire disasters. Forest fire is a necessary part of a healthy forest ecosystem. But "catastrophic" fires - the kind we saw in Lake Tahoe and Southern California's deadly Lake Arrowhead Fire of 2003 - are not. These stand-destroying fires not only threaten lives and homes, they also wreak havoc on the environment by ruining habitat, polluting mountain streams, and releasing tons of greenhouse gases and particulates into the air.